FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 FEBRUARY 1985

Reaction to PLO-Jordanian Agreement

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres responded to the news of the agreement in Amman by stressing that Israel should wait patiently and not react "nervously" pending clarification of the content of the agreement, according to remarks broadcast by IDF radio. He subsequently asserted in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio that the agreement "can hardly be called a peace proposal" if it does not renounce terror, does not recognize Israel, and suggests a "dictate" on one side. Nevertheless, Peres reaffirmed his government's willingness to carefully consider any peace proposal submitted by Jordanian King Husayn. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also commented on Husayn's agreement with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, asserting that Husayn apparently "gave in" to 'Arafat, who has not indicated any readiness to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 or renounce terrorism, IDF radio noted.

Following the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, the PLO representative in Amman confirmed that the PLO still rejects Resolution 242 "as a whole," according to Radio Monte Carlo, though he pointed out that 242 includes "some positive points" such as the inadmissibility of acquiring land through force. Commenting on the agreement, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio acknowledged that there is no "complete identity" of views between the PLO and Jordan but contended that the points of agreement are "more important" than the differences. The radio emphasized that the move "does not constitute a retreat from the objectives of the phased Palestinian national program" and it also echoed 'Arafat's view that the PLO-Jordanian agreement must be endorsed by a broader Arab agreement. Without directly mentioning King Fahd's current U.S. visit, the radio expressed skepticism about the credibility of "the current Arab political move" which is taking place "outside the conflict with the enemy" and it called on Arab countries to "review" their relations with the United States if they "really want to prove their credibility." Before returning to Tunis, 'Arafat stressed that he expects no change in the Reagan administration's policy toward the Palestine issue, the radio also noted.

In Damascus, Palestinian groups including the PFLP and DFLP condemned the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement and the Syrian papers *AL-THAWRAH* and *TISHRIN* viewed it as a conspiracy akin to the Camp David accords, according to SANA. Meanwhile, King Husayn discussed the Palestine issue during talks with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers, Amman radio reported. In another development affecting the PLO, Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio announced that discussions between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and visiting Palestinian National Alliance commanders focused on ways to unify the Palestinian resistance and escalate the armed struggle against "the opposing alliance."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force attacked a second ship in the Gulf on 12 February, hitting a "very big maritime target" near Khark Island during the evening, a military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio.

The Iraqi communique for 12 February, broadcast by Baghdad radio, claimed that the Iraqis killed 103 Iranians and destroyed 3 tanks in these operations. Iran's communique, reported by IRNA, asserted that around 100 Iraqis were killed or wounded in fighting the previous day, with the heaviest clashes occurring on the fronts in Bakhtaran and Ilam.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn has signed a decree granting an amnesty to members of illegal parties and movements including the Al-Da'wah Party and similar groups "who worked for Iran and the regimes allied to it," INA reported. The decree, issued by the Revolution Command Council, promises that sentences and legal measures will be lifted from those covered by the amnesty, who are called on to report to the authorities within a specified period.

Iran

IRNA acknowledged that the Tehran headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's office was attacked by "anti-revolutionaries" on 10 February, but added that no one was injured and little damage was caused.

Meanwhile, in the wake of recent foreign reports of a deterioration in Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's health, IRNA disclosed that Khomeyni met with various officials on 12 February.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed Lebanon, the Middle East, and issues of mutual concern during talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus television reported. Meanwhile, Beirut radio claimed that Israeli troops killed 2 people and wounded 27 others during a "storming" operation in Tura, a village in the Tyre District. For Israel's part, Jerusalem radio said that two residents were wounded by IDF fire while another was killed when he fell from the roof of a building. The IDF had entered the village to arrest people suspected of involvement in terrorist attacks, the radio noted. Six IDF soldiers were subsequently wounded in an attack on an Israeli post east of Al-Nabatiyah, the radio announced. As for the IDF withdrawal, Jerusalem radio revealed that work is already underway to dismantle installations and camps in the Al-Biqa' valley, which is to be evacuated in the second phase of the withdrawal. In Sidon, Lebanese internal security units are already patrolling the city following the withdrawal of the army of southern Lebanon,

though the IDF will also maintain patrols there until the completion of the first phase of the withdrawal, according to the radio.

Yemen

PDRY — Although KUNA cited an official announcement that former leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il has been appointed secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, Aden radio continued to refer to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad as the holder of this post.

YAR — A Soviet delegation headed by Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman Arnold Ryuytel is currently visiting the YAR, Sanaa radio reported.

Egypt

tate security forces in Alexandria have arrested a group of religious extremists led by a doctor who claims that he is the Prophet Muhammad, MENA reported.

Southern Sudan

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fighters killed 46 government soldiers in ambushes carried out in the Lakes Province on 9 February, the clandestine SPLA radio claimed.

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Jaruzelski To Investigate Involvement in Spy Case

BK121600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] India and Poland will soon enter into a new phase in their economic relations. Following the high-level discussions held in New Delhi during the last 2 days between the two countries, it has been decided that the emphasis will now shift from trade to joint ventures and enlarged cooperation in science and technology.

This was disclosed by the visiting prime minister of Poland, General Jaruzelski, at a news conference in New Delhi today. He said the trade between the two countries has shown marked improvement in the last 2 years. Poland's trade with the West in the last 2 years has suffered as a result of the economic restrictions imposed by the United States. Therefore, it is now strengthening its relations with the socialist countries and developing nations, particularly India.

He said the Polish delegation which visited the engineering trade fair in the capital today was greatly impressed by the recent strides taken by India in the field of industry. In his opening statement, the Polish prime minister said his country greatly values its friendship with India, which is playing an important role in the international field. He referred to India's chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement and the recent initiative in holding the 6-nation summit on peace and nuclear disarmament. Poland, he said, has wholeheartedly supported the New Delhi declaration issued after the summit. He also spoke of India's political and moral authority in pursuing a policy of world peace.

In reply to questions about the reported involvement of an employee of the Polish Embassy in the espionage case, Gen Jaruzelski said that his government would fully investigate the matter. The results would be conveyed to India. This subject figured in the talks he had with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The talks, he said, were characterized by frankness and mutual trust. In view of the very friendly relation between the two countries, Poland has no need to resort to dubious means to get any information.

Gen Jaruzelski said Mr Rajiv Gandhi has accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to Poland. The date of the visit would be worked out through diplomatic channels, keeping in view the convenience of both the countries. He assured the people of India that Mr Rajiv Gandhi would be welcomed in Poland with the greatest respect and sympathy. He said his meetings with the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the vice president, Mr Venkataraman, were very cordial. The Polish prime minister and his delegation will leave for Madras tomorrow.

Sri Lanka Denies Reports on Mannar Killings

BK121630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi today denied a report of killing of 32 men by the Army in Mannar area 12 days ago. A London newspaper had carried the report by its South Asia correspondent based on interviews with some women. The High Commission in a press release said that the veracity of the story has been checked and found false. However, it admitted killing of eight persons, whom it decribed as terrorists.

Congress-I Expels Rebel Candidates From Party

BK121621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Srikant Verma, has said that rebel candidates who contest against the official candidates stand automatically expelled from the party. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that the number of rebel candidates is not large.

The Pradesh (State) Congress-I presidents, who are arriving in New Delhi tomorrow, will apprise the party leadership about the latest position regarding the official candidates.

Court Rules on Elections in Punjab, Assam

BK120754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition challenging the validity of the Representation of the People Amendment Ordinance 1984 and the notification issued under it for holding the eighth Lok Sabha elections, excluding Punjab and Assam. The order was passed yesterday by a division bench. The petition moved by the Indian Democratic Party contended that the notification, which excluded the two states, was beyond the legislative competence of the union government.

Sikh Youth Arrested for Assaulting Head Priest

BK121618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] In Amritsar, a youth who allegedly assaulted the head granthi [Sikh priest], of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Giani Preetam Singh, has been handed over to the police. According to Shiromani Gurdeara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] committee sources, Giani Preetam Singh was reading the Granthsahib [Sikh religious book] in the morning when the youth manhandled him. He was immediately overpowered by the sevadars [volunteers]. The identity of the youth is not yet known.

PATRIOT on Response to Pakistan Nuclear Bomb

BK071619 Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Nuclear Open"]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it would appear, has removed all doubts about how India would react if Pakistan made a nuclear bomb. He is reported to have told an Indian fortnightly magazine that this country would have to review policy "to see how we are going to counter that imbalance." In bald terms it means the restoration of the nuclear option which both Janata Prime Minister Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi had foreclosed

when they stated that even if Pakistan acquires nuclear weapons India would not follow suit.

Mr Desai went so far as to even reject peaceful nuclear experiments of the kind conducted at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1974. However, there remains an element of confusion in the reported pronouncements made by the Prime Minister to three foreign television networks and to the Indian fortnightly. To the former he had said: "We will never make a nuclear weapon even though we have had this capability for the last 11 years." To the fortnightly he has talked of countering an imbalance that would be introduced in the subcontinent if nuclear weapons were made which, he maintained, would be a point of no return. Apparently the crux of the matter is that if Pakistan made the bomb, India would have to review methods of countering the new threat. On the face of it, it could mean that India too would have to go nuclear.

This is a sharp departure from anything that Indian leaders have said in the past and it reflects a radically changed threat perception since August 1984, when Indira Gandhi told the Lok Sabha that even if Pakistan were to acquire atomic warheads this would not make any substantial difference to India's jeopardy, because China already was a thermonuclear power. Ever since Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto made known his determination to go nuclear even if it meant eating grass, Indian strategists have been aware of the possibility that Pakistan could threaten to use the bomb to delink Jammu and Kashmir from the rest of India by first launching a pre-emptive attack there and then threatening follow through with a nuclear attack if India resorted to a diversionary move across the international border into Pakistan to relieve the pressure in the north as it had done in 1971.

The Government appears to be convinced that conditions are now ripe for such a scenario to become reality. The Pakistan-supported insurgency in Punjab, the infiltration of heavily armed extremists into strategic sectors of both Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and its attempts to clear the Nubra Valley in the extreme north of Indian troops so as to link up with the Chinese in Aksai Chin may have contributed to a reassessment of what Pakistan may try under the euphoria of possessing a nuclear bomb.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's words should ring warning bells in Islamabad that India is very close to believing that it is the victim of an undeclared war in Punjab which is the beginning of a larger adventure in Jammu and Kashmir and, possibly, both the border states, in collusion with both China and the US: a bomb in Pakistan's basement could be the last straw and would provoke India into utilising the knowledge gained in Pokhran 11 years ago.

Cabinet Decides No ID Cards Needed for Elections

BK121551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpt] At its meeting in Islamabad today, the federal Cabinet decided to maintain its past decision about ID cards for the forthcoming elections -- that is, it again will not be compulsory to present ID cards before voting. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq presided over the meeting.

The Cabinet also reviewed the matter of the use of loud speakers by candidates contesting the elections and decided that the present arrangements [banning use of loud speakers] will continue and they will not be changed.

American Military, Economic Aid Commended

GF091340 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 7 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Provision for Aid to Pakistan in the U.S. Budget"]

[Excerpts] The budget prepared by the Reagan administration for the fiscal year commencing in October 1985 has been presented to Congress and $675 million has been allocated for aid to Pakistan. Of this, $325 million is for the purchase of arms, while the remaining $250 million [figure as published] is for economic aid for Pakistan's stability. The previous allocation had been $630 million.

India as usual has raised a furor over the proposed aid. Even the influential Zionist lobby and pro-Indian circles in the United States have been active against the proposed aid and continue to raise a storm over Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. The Reagan administration has to annually obtain approval for Pakistan's aid with the result that every year there is a clamor in the U.S. Congress against aid to Pakistan. The responsibility the United States took in 1981 to provide aid to Pakistan has been laudably shouldered by the Reagan administration and the fresh allocation of $675 million is an important juncture in the nexus of these events.

U.S. aid to Pakistan does not come under the category of a free gift or handout; instead, in view of the threat to U.S. vital interests in the area due to the danger confronting Pakistan because of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the aid has been deemed necessary for Pakistan's defense capability. This need has forced Pakistan to agree to the U.S. aid (loans on a commercial basis). India's litany is nothing new because it desires dominance in the area even with Soviet aid and considers a strong and independent Pakistan a deterrent to its designs. In its obsession of opposition to Pakistan, it has blinded itself to the fact that if Soviet aggressive expansion moves toward Pakistan, it will not remain immune from the deluge.

Indian leaders are paranoid in their opposition to Pakistan. Unfortunately, there are certain misguided elements in Pakistan as well who support India and the Soviet Union and occasionally utter such foolishness as: U.S. aid is being given not for Pakistan's defense and economy but to perpetuate the Ziaul Haq regime. They overlook the fact that the arms being purchased from the United States are for strengthening the country's defense and for its economic stability. The arms bought during the Ayub Khan and Bhutto eras too were used for the country's defense and were not used by the leaders themselves!

Despite protests by the influential Zionist lobby and pro-Indian elements, the manner in which the Reagan administration is discharging its responsibility for Pakistan's military and economic stability is commendable in itself and is to be appreciated in light of the continuing danger to Pakistan, even if it is in the interest of the United States as well. The prerequisite for a strong and independent Pakistan is that it should be economically and militarily stable. For this it is necessary to utilize U.S. aid to the optimum and in the best possible manner since this aid is actually a loan and the interest will be exorbitant. We should also set our house in order to promote internal national unity with perseverance and fortitude.

Committee Demands Release of Political Prisoners

GF091112 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Feb 85 P 4

[Text] Lahore, Feb 6: The political prisoners' release and relief committee has issued figures showing that more than 200 political workers and leaders are detained in different jails in the Punjab, while 86 more are in some jails in NWFP.

The statistics were released at a joint news conference addressed by the acting convener of the committee, Syed Afzal Haider, and members Abid Hassan Minto, Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, Mian Bashir Zafar, Chaudhary Asghar Khadim and Liaquat Hussain Warraich.

They said the list included political leaders, doctors, educationists, students and political workers. They were arrested from time to time since 1980.

The committee alleged that the majority of political workers had been kept in the punitive cells and were kept chained. They are even being produced before the military courts in fetters.

The committee demanded that the government should release all the political workers and leaders before February 25 including those who were being tried by the military courts.

Release orders should also be issued for those who had been sentenced by the military courts and also those who were awaiting judgment by these courts, they said.

They demanded that Saifullah Khan, Malik Ayub, Nasir Baluch and Esa Baluch, who were sentenced to death, should also be released or their sentence should be suspended and they be tried in a civil court.

They alleged that the attitude of jail authorities was very harsh towards the political prisoners and they were being denied even the basic medical and other facilities already guaranteed in the jail manual.

They said that even criminal prisoners were entitled to get the benefit under Section 382-b of the jail manual, i.e. reduction of the period of trial from the total sentence, but the political

prisoners, under trial or already sentenced by the military courts, were being denied this right.

Abid Hassan Minto explained features of the Presidential Order 4. [PO-4]

According to him this law was contrary even to the Islamic law of evidence, as under this procedure "burden of proof lies with accused."

This was a fundamental change in the court procedure and in the law of evidence as even the confession of an accused before a police officer, which is not admissible in the civil courts, will now be admissible and this statement could be used against him or any other person for legal proceedings, he said.

Minto said under this procedure not more than one lawyer was allowed to cross examine the witnesses even when the number of accused might be more than 50 and even if every accused wished to engage an independent lawyer. Under the PO-4, he said, the lawyers and accused are not provided the record of the case, the copies of the statement of the accused and copy of the First Information Report (FIR).

The committee demanded immediate withdrawal of PO-4, release of Malik Mohammad Qasim, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Malik Miraj Khalid, Afzal Sindhu, Rao Abdul Rashid, Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Rasool Bux Paleejo, Jam Saqi, Raza Kazim, Imtiaz Alam, Sher Ali Bacha, Mukhtar Ahmad Awan, Rana Shaukat Mehmood, Salman Taseer, Rashid Qureshi, and other political prisoners.

SRI LANKA

BANGKOK POST Interviews Premadasa on Tamils

BK110319 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Feb 85 p 4

["Exclusive" interview granted by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, visiting Thailand to attend ASEAN foreign ministers meeting, to *BANGKOK POST* editor-in-chief The Chongkhadikit; in Bangkok — date not given]

[Text] The: Mr Prime Minister, what is the present situation in your country, economically and politically?

Mr Premadasa: Sine 1977, Sri Lanka has followed an open economic policy, without controls, quota systems and import restrictions. Development programmes, such as the diversion of the Mahaweli River, the establishment of a free trade zone, housing and urban reconstruction, were launched. From a controlled economy, we have a free economy which has increased incomes and employment. We are also on the road to reaching our economic targets.

Politically we have a stable government. All the fundamental freedoms are preserved and protected. We have free elections and a free press.

Unfortunately, our social, economic progress and development have been impeded by terrorism. Many lives belonging to all communities are being lost. The damage done to property and national wealth is of an unprecedented magnitude.

The: Mr Prime Minister, is this an ethnic, language or human rights problem?

Mr Premadasa: It started, before independence in 1948, with agitation by a section of the Tamil speaking people. They demanded equal status in political, social and economical fields. But the majority Sinhalese, who comprise 74 per cent of the population, did not accept the demands. The Ceylon Tamil population is only 12 1/2 per cent.

It is not a language problem either. Since 1977, the Tamil language has been granted national status. People living in predominantly Tamil speaking areas of the North and the East can transact business with government in Tamil. Most reasonable demands of Tamil speaking people have been granted and there is no discrimination in the allocation of resources.

It is not a human rights problem either, because under our constitution every citizen enjoys equal fundamental rights and privileges.

The: If it is not a language, ethnic or human rights problem, what are the terrorist fighting for?

Mr Premadasa: Their demand is for a separate state. Our is a small country of 25,000 square miles and is the only nation in the world where the Sinhala speaking people live.

It is said the main objective of the terrorists is to carve out a seperate state through terrorism.

The: What is the outcome of these confrontations?

Mr Premadasa: A trail of destruction and woe. The killing of many, soldiers, policemen, navy and air force personnel, government officials and 365 civilians. Among them were a Japanese Buddhist monk who was on a peace mission in Jaffna, a Christian priest and a young Tamil girl who gave shelter to two policemen when they were chased by terrorists.

There is no proper estimate of the number of terrorists. They have weapons which were taken from servicemen and the police, and sophisticated arms from outside.

The: Mr Prime Minister, is there any evidence to show whether the terrorists are Marxist oriented?

Mr Premadasa: There are some seven terrorist groups and about 25-30 splinter groups. But a majority of them have claimed they are Marxist-oriented. Their clandestine radio broadcasts Marxist propaganda openly. The literature and other evidence gathered show their objective is to divide the country and not only set up a Marxist state, but also ultimately create a Marxist-oriented government in the whole of Sri Lanka.

They have also made democratically elected Tamil leaders pawns in their hands.

They have killed several people's representatives. The murder of the former mayor of Jaffna, Alfred Duraiappah, in 1974, the killing of many political organisers in the North and East, indicate they are not for democracy.

The: Mr Prime Minister, in this situation, what are [as published] expecting from friendly countries, especially, as you are in a strategically vulnerable location, with the Trincomalee harbour on the east coast? If it gets into wrong hands it will be a threat to all neighbouring countries.

Mr Premadasa: We have been apppealing to democratically elected governments in the world, including India, to cooperate with us, to preserve the democratic traditions and institutions.

The: According to what you have said, Mr Prime Minister, has not terrorism in Sri Lanka taken a different turn and escalated to alarming proportions in the last three months?

Mr Premadasa: Yes. Terrorism has taken a different turn in the last three months.

Since the July 1983 communal disturbances, Sinhalese people who lived in the northern and eastern provinces for generations have been moved to safety, in predominantly Sinhala areas. At the moment there are more Sinhalese in refugee camps than Tamils.

The massacre of innocent Sinhala civilians in farms and fishing villages is shocking.

The attacks on armed services and the police have also been on the increase. The massacre of the 30 policemen at the Chavakachcheri police station and the blasting of the Jaffna train which killed nearly 40 servicemen and seven civilians are examples of the escalation of terrorism.

It may be that concerted action and vigilance by the armed forces in recent months have made them engage in these acts of violence in sheer desperation.

Patrolling by the Navy has disrupted their supply lines of arms and trained terrorists.

The: What are the main obstacles to eliminating terrorism from your shores?

Mr Premadada: The reasons are many. The terrorists have bases in India. They are being protected and funded by sympathisers. However, the Indian Government has denied and continues to deny that there are no bases or training camps there. [sentence as published]

Sri Lanka being located close to India, seperated only by the narrow Palk Strait which is 20 miles in width, makes it difficult to prevent the movement of terrorists, supplies and arms. It's not easy for the Navy to patrol a coastline stretching 200 to 300 miles, from where the terrorists can enter the country.

The terrorists are being funded from outside, by people in many countries, other militant groups and organisations. There are several unidentified foreign hands helping them.

The: Aren't there requests from certain quarters to find a political solution?

Mr Premadasa: We are striving hard to find a political solution. The President Mr J.R. Jayewardene recently summoned an All Party Conference to find a political solution. Even when the All Party Conference was in session, terrorists continued to attack. They have openly said they do not believe in settling this at the conference table.

The: Mr Prime Minister, there was a proposal sometime back for Sri Lanka to join ASEAN. Are you still pursuing this?

Mr Premadasa: Sri Lanka has always pursued a policy of bilateral and international cooperation. Also, in keeping with Sri Lankan policy of non-alignment, we like to maintain friendly relations with all countries. Also, wherever it is to our mutual benefit we would like to establish close cooperation with regional organisations such as ASEAN. We have an open mind on this subject.

State Minister on Cabinet Briefing, Censorship

BK131408 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] A closer dialogue between Sri Lanka and India on the ethnic issue could be expected in the near future. This was disclosed by Minister of State Dr Anandatissa de Alwis when he addressed journalists in Colombo after the Cabinet meeting today.

Dr de Alwis said that the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, had briefed the Cabinet on the discussions he had with the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Athulathmudali had told the Cabinet that the discussions indicated a definitely closer understanding of mutual problems at the highest level of the Government of India.

Dr de Alwis told the reporters that a summit between President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is not expected in the near future.

Referring to questions raised by reporters, he confirmed that the plane which had landed for fueling in Trivandrum had been carrying arms for Sri Lanka. He said that the plane had landed at Trivandrum with permission from airport authorities.

Explaining why the government had imposed censorship on news relating to terrorism, the minister of state said some kind of censorship is necessary when a war is fought. He confirmed that a certain incident had taken place at (Kalaimadli) recently, but not to the magnitude as reported by certain foreign journalists. He also said that few terrorists were killed following the incidents.

Reportage on Attacks by Tamil Separatists

2 Soldiers Killed

HK131034 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 13 (AFP) — Two soldiers and 13 Tamil separatists were killed today when a strong force of militants attacked an Army detachment on Sri Lanka's northeastern coast, official sources said.

The attack at Kokkilai began after midnight and forced the Army encampment to summon reinforcements, the official sources said.

The shootout lasted about five hours, other sources said. The attackers pulled back when the Army detachment was strengthened with helicopters and reinforcements from Vavuniya.

Reports said that a combined force from the Army, Navy and Air Force in a flush out operation had surrounded a 200-strong group of armed militants, thought to be the earlier attackers.

The State Ministry today flatly denied a report by the Eelam People's Information Centre in Madras, India, that separatists had captured a naval base near Jaffna Sunday, killing 150 sailors and destroying gunboats.

Other reports said two sailors and at least eight separatists died in an attack on the base, but official sources said they did not have further details about the attack.

P.S. Soosaithasan, former parliamentarian from the political party Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), told AGENCE

FRANCE-PRESSE today he had asked to meet President Junius Jayewardene to discuss an alleged massacre of Tamil civilians in northwestern Sri Lankan villages last month.

He said he wanted to pass on information stating that 66 to 80 civilians, mostly Tamils, were killed by soldiers on January 30 and possibly February 1.

He said he had not received an appointment with the president yet.

Two off-duty policemen were abducted yesterday near Amparai on the east coast by four armed men believed to be separatists, it was reported today.

High police sources said they had no further information on the matter.

Naval Base Attack Denied

BK131108 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The Ministry of State yesterday dismissed as gross misrepresentation reports by the French news agency AFP and the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA that the terrorists had captured a naval base near Jaffna destroying several gun boats and killing 150 sailors.

Both reports quoted a press release issued by the Eelam People's Information Center based in Madras.

Both AFP and PTI appeared to have given credence to the deliberate falsehood spread by separatist propagandists to discredit the security forces.

The ministry statement pointed out that sections of the media based in India had spread a similar story that 200 Armymen were killed when the terrorists mined the Yal Devi train.

14 Terrorists Killed

BK131322 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In the early hours of this morning, terrorists launched an attack on the Army units at Kokkilai. According to the Ministry of Defense, the Army repulsed the attack, killing 14 terrorists. Four soldiers lost their lives. Two of these soldiers died in combat, while the other two died as a result of a landmine, which exploded when three reinforcement police rushed to the scene. Several terrorists who attempted to escape were fired at by security forces. A number of them were seriously injured.

A large quantity of explosives, handgrenades, and petrol bombs were captured. The following weapons of foreign make were also discovered: 4 AK-47 rifles, 2 submachine guns, 2 SMG rifles, and a 99-mm pistol. The Army was also able to capture radio communication (?equipment).

Curfew in 5 Districts To Be Lifted 17 Feb

BK121401 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] There will be no curfew in the administrative districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaittivu, Vavuniya, and Mannar on the 17th of this month on account of mahasivaratri [Hindu festival] day.

Delhi Notes Student Agitations in Colombo, Kandy

BK130303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In Sri Lanka, armed police and riot squads were called in to disperse students agitating in Colombo against the controversial university bill yesterday. Several students, including girls, were injured. The bill seeks to establish private universities. Reports say that there have been similar agitations in Kandy, about 115 km from Colombo.

Khomeyni Receives Minister, Army Officers

LD121733 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 12 Feb 85

["Meetings With the Imam" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12,. IRNA — Interior minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, deputy commander of Islamic Revolution's Committees, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, and provincial commanders of the committees met with leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni today.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek gave a report on the activities of the committee and its campaign against narcotics smugglers and counter-revolutionaries.

Also today, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nurmofidi, the imam's representative and leader of Friday mass prayers of Gorgan, Brig. Gen. Qasem 'Ali Zahirnejad, imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council and Col. Esma'il Sohrabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, met separately with the imam.

Khamene'i Sends Khomeyni Anniversary Message

LD121124 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA — In a cable to Imam Khomeyni Tuesday, President 'Ali Khamene'i reaffirmed the observance and the sound implementation of Imam Khomeyni's guidelines, stressed in imam's message to the nation on the Islamic Revolution's anniversary Monday.

Expressing deep appreciation for the wise recommendations of the leader of the Islamic Revolution to people and officials, the president strongly stressed that decisive steps should be taken for the sound observance of imam's instructions.

Khamene'i Addresses Islamic Revolution Committees

LD121914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of founding Islamic Revolution committees, glorious celebratory ceremonies were held in the presence of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chief of the Supreme Defense Council, in Martyr Shirudi Stadium in Tehran this afternoon.

The ceremonies were attended by Minister of Interior Nateq Nuri; Colonel Sohrabi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mr Mahallati, the Imam's representative to the corps; the commanders of the Air Force and Navy; the deputy head of the Islamic Revolution Committees; and a number of other military and civilian officials; and also a group of the committee martyr's families and a number of the personnel of the Islamic Revolution committees. Following the playing of a few songs, Mr Salek, the deputy head of the Islamic Revolution committees, read a report on the work and activities of these committees in fighting corruption and unlawful acts, in confronting mini-groups, and in safeguarding the Islamic homeland's borders.

Then there was a speech by Khamene'i, chief of the Supreme Defense Council, expounding the manner of inception and peculiarities of the Islamic Revolution committees. He said: One of the peculiarities of the Islamic Revolution committees is their popular nature. Yesterday, you witnessed the people's mammoth rally in Azadi Square. That glorious rally and vast ocean of humanity that was convened not at the demand of the imam nor at the calling of any of the officials, but only after a statement by the coordination council of the Islamic Republic — which is a popular institution. Once again the world's arrogant organizations, counterrevolution and the enemies of the system of the Islamic Republic were brought despondency.

It is a natural and historical law that man always triumphs over all forces and machines he is confronted with. When nations are defeated by force it is because the people do not resolve; victory depends on the will power of men, just as a fighting group and a limited group right from the beginning of the movement gave up everything they had in order to make this revolution all-embracing. We saw for ourselves how that happened and when the Islamic nation accepted the revolution and resolved to fight the satanical regime, it defeated it.

Mr Khamene'i then referred to the plots hatched by the regional countries against the Islamic Republic of Iran and their subservience to the United States and said: Certain regional countries sit down and seek assistance from the United States in order to solve the problems and difficulties of the Middle East at a time when the United States is the one who has created the problems of the region. The problems of the region will not be solved unless the people are relied upon, and it is the people of the region who should solve their own problems. We are the trailblazers in this course of events.

The president of the republic added: One of the glories of our revolution is its reliance on the people; and this is more than anything else apparent in the Islamic Revolution committees that have been set up from the units of the people's masses. Emphasizing the Islamic nature of the committees as being another peculiarity of that institution, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council said: Today, no one doubts anymore that this is an Islamic revolution and that this republic is based on the laws of Islam. Those who are dissatisfied with the Islamic Revolution do not openly say: "We are not Islamic!" but attempt to undermine the Islamic foundations of the regime. Therefore, we emphasize being Islamic.

Mr Khamene'i added: The Islamic Revolution committees have been set up in their Islamic form and the movement of the committees began in the mosques. The Islamic nature of the Islamic Republic system is one of the most fundamental elements making up the system and you should preserve this fundamental element in making up the committees; and the committee, too, should remain as popular as ever. The committees should be the stuff of the people's hope and the sanctuary and bulwark of the people. The people should feel affection for the committees and you should safeguard this affection. The people should feel that the committees constitute their arms. And on that day when a malignant dupe assassinates that tradesman for the crime of being revolutionary and being against arrogance, the people should safeguard the presence of the committee and the commit-

tee should strike with its mighty fist at the breast of these venal people! [sentence as heard]

Referring to the active presence of the committee guards in all arenas, particularly the war, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council added: The quality of the work of the committees has always been one of self-sacrifice and I deem it essential to convey to you, families of the committee martyrs, my humble salute and sincere wishes. You people, whose sons everywhere, and during the most sensitive days of the revolution, safeguarded the revolution from the harm of counterrevolution. These dear ones, right from the beginning of the revolution, in their opposition to the royalists and counterrevolution and other forces fighting them, lost their lives. And these families of the martyrs constitute a glorious record of these committees!

In conclusion, the president of the republic, emphasizing the harmony between the revolutionary forces and the need to safeguard regulations and laws, said: I believe that safeguarding regulations is one of the most revolutionary duties. The important thing is that the committees should carry out in the best possible manner the duties they are undertaking in accordance with rules and regulations. And praise be to Allah. So far you have carried your duties well, but you should endeavor to work better in the future and all revolutionary forces present in the arena should carry out their tasks in a coordinated manner.

Khamene'i Comments on War, Policy Toward Israel

GF130736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] In an interview with the London-based *AL-'ALAM* journal, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, answered various questions put to him by its correspondent about the imposed war, the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, and regional issues.

With regard to the imposed war, while referring to the great victories of the Islamic fighters over the Zionist regime in Iraq, the Supreme Defense Council chairman said: We feel that another move [as heard] is essential so that our past progress may reach its definite stage. We believe, with the grace of God, that such a move will not be very difficult.

Commenting on the so-called search-for-peace moves of the Zionist Iraqi regime, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: Iraq does not want peace. Iraq wants to extricate itself from the net it is presently caught in. This suggests that the Iraqi experiment of aggression will be repeated once again, because there is nothing to prevent such a repetition. With the flood of arms that are being sent to Iraq and in the absence of similar facilities for us, what proof is there that in another 2-years time Iraq will not feel once again that it is comparatively stronger than Iran and that another vast attack would be in order?

We, as oppressed people, have succeeded through our sacrifices in sitting on and pinning down the aggressor, yet we do not want this to continue — that this aggression should be repeated. We only want the aggression that already has taken place to be punished and an account taken. Under existing circumstances, no one can accuse us of being warmongers. We are peace loving and peace is better for us. However, we do not want to acquire peace at the price of releasing the oppressor; we want the aggression that has occurred in the past as well as in the future to be confessed to.

In another part of the interview, commenting on the policy of the Islamic Republic toward support for the people of Lebanon and Palestine in the fight against the occupationist Israeli regime, the president said that our approach toward Israel is that of face-to-face confrontation and fighting against this regime. Israel must be fought against, and force be met with force. We consider this a justifiable war.

With regard to the Islamic Republic's policy toward world Muslims engaged in struggle against the world superpowers, the president said that a religious and Islamic awakening in Muslim countries was imperative and definite and its outcome is unalterable. Our revolution has given impetus to this movement. We strongly support any move that is really Islamic and has not fallen into the clutches of the oppressive powers.

Musavi, Energy Minister Visit Bandar 'Abbas

LD120951 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Feb. 12, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi visited Bandar 'Abbas power station Monday morning where he received detailed information about the operation of the plant by Minister of Energy Hasan Ghafuri-Fard.

Bandar 'Abbas power station is located 17 kms west of the city, with six gas-turbines and four steam-operating ones.

The power station was established originally to provide electricity for steel industries which were going to be set up in Bandar 'Abbas. With the transfer of the steel industries to Mobarakeh near Esfahan, it was decided that the power station should join the national electricity network.

Meanwhile, the prime minister visited Iran-Nahad ship which is going to carry the fifth consignment of Iranian assistance for the famine-stricken people of Africe, at Martyr Raja'i port complex Monday.

The consignment, weighing about 5.5 million kgs of foodstuff, will leave Bandar 'Abbas for Africa within the next day or two.

The prime minister concluded his one-day visit to Hormozgan Province and returned to Tehran Monday night.

Mansuri Addresses Prisoners on Foreign Policy

LD120949 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan Province), Feb. 12, IRNA — The Islamic Revolution of Iran has proved to be such a unique and deciding factor that for the first time in the world, one can see the United States of America or the Soviet Union joining together in aiding the enemies of the Iranian revolution, Javad

Mansuri, deputy foreign minister for consular and cultural affairs said Monday.

Mansuri who was speaking to Mashhad prisoners in their celebration of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution further added that in a recent international diplomatic conference in Vienna, it was stated that Islam will be the only world political force in the 21st century. "Only a few days ago, the prime minister of the Zionist regime also referred to the Islamic Revolution of Iran as the most bitter political event of recent centuries," he added.

At the end of the speech, the deputy foreign minister replied to questions of Mashhad prisoners about Iran's foreign policy.

Khatami, UNESCO Director Discuss U.S. Withdrawal
LD121843 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA — Iran's Ershad-e Islami (Islamic Guidance) Minister Mohammad Khatami today congratulated UNESCO's director general for the withdrawal from UNESCO of the United States.

In his message to Amadou Mahtar M'bow, Khatami appreciated his efforts for upholding the aspirations of the organisation and safeguarding its dignity as an international cultural organisation.

He said the Islamic Republic firmly believes that if the United States was allowed to dictate its views to the organisation, it would not have pulled out.

He expressed hope that UNESCO would continue its assigned tasks in keeping with the expectations of its member countries, and that the director general would continue his task at UNESCO, as a personality well respected by governments and world people.

Khatami Addresses Artists on Creative Freedom
LD122216 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA — In his address to Iranian artists at large, Minister of Ershad-e Islami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami today called on them to engage in artistic creation for the sake of the masses and adopt a language comprehensible to the masses rather than address only a select strata of the society.

The Ershad-e Islami minister who was talking to an audience of artists, actresses and producers of theatrical arts at the conclusion of the third Fajr Drama festival here today called on them to draw on their creative abilities and rely on their independent judgement. He said artists must respond to a creative urge from within rather than conform with ready-made formulas handed them from above.

The minister also made it clear that artists should exercise independence in producing their works and that an art form dictated by the government is doomed even though that government be a just one.

Ambassador Discusses Relations With India
LD121052 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to India, Ebrahim Behnam, expressed the hope that mutual relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India would be further strengthened.

Speaking in a televised program in New Delhi on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian envoy said the victory of the revolution entailed the solidarity of Iranian Muslims with over one billion Muslim people throughout the world.

He added that upon its establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran extended a friendly hand towards all nations and governments which respected the freedom of man and his legitimate rights.

But, he stressed, plunderers whose domination-seeking tendencies were threatened by the Islamic Revolution, hatched plots against Iran and imposed a destructive war on it.

Despite being entangled in the war, Iran was still firmly continuing its support for the oppressed people and the fight with imperialism, Behnam noted.

Referring to Iran's stance vis-a-vis the economic domination by the superpowers, the Iranian ambassador said one of the most effective ways to curtail dependence on international imperialist was economic self-sufficiency in the Third World countries.

He reiterated Iran's foreign policy of neither Eastern nor Western and added that Iran was fully observing the principles of non-alignment and that it highly respected the non-aligned movement.

He stressed that both Iran and India were seeking real non-alignment and opposed the presence of any foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean or the Persian Gulf countries.

Syrian Envoy on Unity With Iran Against Zionism
LD111909 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11 IRNA — The Islamic Republic and Syria are unitedly combatting colonialism and Zionism like a single body, said the Syrian ambassador to Iran, Ibrahim al-Yunis.

The ambassador spoke to IRNA at the Syrian Embassy Sunday as Syrians residing in Tehran voted in their country's presidential election.

On the imposed war, Yunes said, "From our point of view, considering the heavy losses inflicted on the two countries' Muslim armies, only imperialism and Zionism will benefit from this war."

He also said Syria supports the Islamic Revolution because Imam Khomeyni is the leader of all regional liberation movements.

Minister Interviewed on SFRY Delegation's Visit

LD081627 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] In an interview with our reporter, Namazi, minister of economy and finance, talked about the results of the visit of a Yugoslav delegation to Iran and the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] During the visit of the Yugoslav delegation to Iran, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. Could you please give us some details about this memorandum and the results of the visit of the Yugoslav delegation?

[Namazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you know, annual joint commissions of ministers from the two countries are held in Tehran and Belgrade. This year, when the Yugoslav delegation came to Iran, it held discussions with its Iranian counterparts on industrial, agricultural, banking and commercial issues, and reviewed fields for exchanges and for technical and agricultural cooperation between the two countries. The level of exchanges between the two countries during the coming year [starting 21 March 1985] is foreseen as $700 million.

It was decided that Yugoslavia would purchase 1.5 million barrels of oil from Iran and to export goods to Iran in exchange. It was also decided that 15 percent of goods exported to Yugoslavia in exchange for Yugoslav exports to Iran should consist of non-oil items. Goods foreseen for export to Yugoslavia include minerals, such as copper, zinc, lead, quarried stone [sang-e kuh] and other types of minerals, as well as hides, leather, cotton and some agricultural goods. Items to be exported by Yugoslavia were also specified. There are about 70 types of goods which will be exported from Iran to Yugoslavia, and there are 166 types of goods which will be imported from Yugoslavia, such as chemicals, industrial items and foodstuff. [end recording]

It should be noted that during their 1-week stay in Tehran, the members opf the Yugoslav delegation met with the ministers of foreign affairs; roads and transport; post, telegraph and telephone; energy; agriculture and rural development, commerce, and heavy industries.

Envoy to Hungary Terms Peace Talks 'Impossible'

LD090843 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Text] Belgrade, Feb. 9, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Budapest, Hungary, said Friday that peace talks with the Iraqi regime were impossible and beyond expectation.

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, 'Ali Akbar Farazi, stressed that the Islamic Republic would continue its rightful defence until the downfall of the Iraqi regime which aimed at harming the Islamic Revolution and creating insecurity in the region. He noted that if military and financial support of the superpowers for the Baghdad regime was ceased, the Iraqi regime would soon be overthrown.

Referring to recent talks of foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Libya, Farazi said the talks were held in the framework of exchange of views between Muslim and progressive countries and were aimed at further strengthening the anti-imperialist stance of these countries.

He added the meeting of the three foreign ministers was a measure to thwart the attempts of imperialism to force a number of Middle Eastern countries to compromise and that it was necessary vis-a-vis the Amman-Baghdad-Cairo triangle.

Farazi reiterated that Iran's neither Western nor Eastern policy did not imply isolation in the world but rather it meant to non-acceptance of foreign domination.

Communique No 2,002: 100 Iraqi Casualties

LD121532 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12, IRNA — About 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded Monday in the western battle fronts, as the heaviest clashes took place in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar fronts in Bakhtaran Province and the Maymak front in Ilam Province, the Joint Staff reported today.

It said the Iraqi forces also lost one tank, five light and heavy vehicles, one mortar launcher and 25 of their bunkers and observation posts were smashed in these fronts.

The activities of Iraqi patrol unit was also checked by the Islamic forces in the Sumar front at 9:30 p.m. Sunday (18:00 GMT).

Communique No. 2002 said another 15 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded in the north western fronts on Monday as well.

In these fronts, several enemy small and large bunkers and surveillance posts were levelled.

At 00:45 a.m. on Sunday [22:15 GMT] Iranian forces in the southern Majnun Island detected slight relocation of Iraqi troops and immediately checked their operations, it added.

Meanwhile in Abadan, Iraqi positions across the Arvand River were pounded, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and setting afire their trenches and artillery emplacements.

Four residential houses were partly damaged in Abadan on Monday as they were hit by Iraqi shells launched from across the border, the communique concluded.

Guard Corps 'Ya Zahra' Exercise Described

LD081835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] The Varamin [town southeast of Tehran] base of the central province Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced: After recalling the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni forces to take part in military exercise and following the impressive response of the combative personnel of these forces, the forces were organized and assembled at Qods Camp at Varamin. They

attended lectures and took part in prayer ceremonies before being dispatched to the operational zone.

Having heard the base commander's explanation of the exercise, the forces began their operations at 0300 hours [local time; date unspecified] under the codename of "Ya Zahra" and successfully captured the predetermined positions. More than five battalions were involved in the operation.

Antirevolutionaries' Attack Causes Little Damage

LD121642 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA — Anti-revolutionaries fired on the headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's prosecutor's office in uptown Tehran Sunday night, breaking some windows and leaving a large bullet mark on the top edge of the building.

According to official sources, the bullets were fired from a large caliber machine gun, from a building opposite the headquarters.

The attack occurred as Tehranis throughout the city were shouting "Allah o Akbar" (God is greater) from rooftops Sunday evening, on the eve of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

No one was injured in the attack and the office resumed normal operation today after Monday's national holiday.

Shortly after the attack, the anti-revolutionaries made a statement that they had demolished two stories of the three-storey building and that fire had erupted as a result.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Voice of America (VOA) said the attack showed a so-called stepping up of operations by the opposition in Iran.

IRNA has transmitted worldwide a photograph taken from the headquarters, showing the insignificance of the damage done.

Clandestine Reports Arrest of Mehdi Bazargan

GF111556 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] Mohammad Mehdi Bazargan and 45 of his colleagues were arrested this afternoon in Tehran's Takht-e Tavus Street by the armed paramilitary personnel of the Islamic regime and were taken to some unknown spot.

Our correspondent added that the incident took place when Mehdi Bazargan, the leader of the Freedom Movement Party, was addressing persons gathered at his party office at his invitation. Armed personnel of the Islamic Republic contrary to previous practices, did not observe any political protocol and arrested Bazargan and his colleagues in full public view. They put them in official vehicles patrolling the area and took them away. Our correspondent said the incident occurred at 1200. He added that the clash between the Revolution Guards and committee members showed that the orders for the arrest and detention of Bazargan were issued by high-level officials in the regime. The people attending the meeting and those outside began shouting anti regime slogans and angrily abused the Revolution Guards.

We remind our listeners that the day before yesterday during Friday prayers, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of Khomeyni's regime, had strongly assailed the Freedom Movement Party and claimed that its leaders had no faith in Islam.

The Freedom Movement Party has lately been pointing its accusing finger at 'Ali Khamene'i who in practice heads almost all the oppressing organizations such as the presidency of the republic, the Hezb-e Jomhuri-ye Eslami, the *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* newspaper, and the Hezbollahi baton-wielders. In fact he heads all corruption in the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Qomi Issues Statement Against War

GF121558 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Dear compatriots, in the last moments of our program today we invite you to listen to the latest edict issued by Ayatollah Tabataba'i Qomi.

The text was issued of Ayatollah Tabataba'i Qomi's edict concerning the war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq. Ayatollah Qomi has announced as a certain haram [religiously unlawful] the participation in the war as well as being killed in the war.

Included in the text of Ayatollah Qomi's edict is: This war, from my point of view, is certainly haram. To be killed in this war is haram and to go to the war fronts is also haram.

In his edict Ayatollah Qomi says: In this war two groups of Muslims are attacking one another and are killing one another, wounding one another. They destroy each other's limbs and eyes. How much money do they spend? How many towns and villages are destroyed? How many men are disabled and how many women are widowed? How many children become fatherless? The wealth of the Arab nations is wasted on weapons to the benefit of the United States and U.S. factories.

In any case, this war has nothing in store for this country except losses and destruction. It is necessary to find an honorable peace as soon as possible.

Succession Question Causes Rift in Ruling Group

GF111632 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 10 Feb 85

[Text] The discussion over a successor to Khomeyni or the alternate idea of a leadership council as a successor at the so-called Assembly of Experts has increased the rift within the ruling group.

According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent the Assembly of Experts recently held a meeting behind closed doors chaired by cleric Meshkini. It discussed the succession to Khomeyni but increased differences caused the meeting to fail to reach a final

decision on the matter. Although the group supporting 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani favors the appointment of Sheykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri as successor to Ruhollah Khomeyni, the proposal is facing opposition from several members of the Assembly of Experts. Cleric Meshkini and cleric Safi oppose the proposal. Meshkini and his group believe that the succession should go to a group of three to five persons to be named as the council of leadership succeeding Khomeyni.

However many of the country's clerics believe that the appointment of persons to a leadership council or to the office of the Velayat-e Faqih is against the rules of Shi'ite Islam because it would mean the appointment of clerics to government posts.

In the Shi'ite religion, the election of persons to a leadership council or to the office of Velayat-e Faqih will also violate the principle of Shi'ite Islam which prescribes either natural succession or succession through appointment by the predecessor.

Iraq's Political Prisons Becoming Overcrowded

LD082054 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA -- Following the overcrowding of Iraq's political prisons, Saddam's regime has ordered the transport of many of political prisoners [as received] to an underground multi-storey prison located in a remote desert in Al-Samava Province near the Saudi Arabian borders. According to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), this prison is called Noqrat-al Salman and was built by a British Colonel before the independence of Iraq.

It will be used for those prisoners with long-term sentences. The prison lacks electricity and drinking water and prisoners will be in complete darkness for many years just like in the dungeons of the Middle Ages. In case they are freed, prisoners will suffer from chronic asthma and might not be able to see light for some months.